



MINUTES COUNCIL WORK SESSION Diamondhead, Mississippi

Diamondhead Community Center
March 26, 2012
9:00 a.m.

1. **Call to Order 9:03am** Mayor Ingraham
Invocation Mayor Ingraham
Pledge of Allegiance Councilmember Holcomb
2. **Roll Call**—The following members of Council were present: Mayor Ingraham, Dianne Ackerman, Hank Holcomb, Ernie Knobloch, Ron Rech, Dalton Roberson
3. **Confirmation Or Adjustments of Agenda Order**
4. **Presentations**
 - a. Patty Furr, Executive Director, Hancock County Library System—Ms. Furr brought copies for Council of the Mississippi Library Laws, Annotated 2007 Edition for the City. Ms. Furr indicated that the new East Hancock County Library located in Diamondhead is expected to open in late October or early November. She gave an overview of the proposed interior design, outlined funding needed, gifts and grants received, and estimated it would cost \$273,000 yearly to staff and run the new library.

Ms. Furr indicated that cuts in the hours of other county libraries are expected when the East Hancock County Library in Diamondhead is opened as 4,600 people in Diamondhead have library cards with the potential to serve 8,000-10,000 people. When inquiry was made, Ms. Furr indicated that, if Diamondhead had not been incorporated, the county would have funded the new East Hancock County Library completely.

Ms. Furr reassured Council that funding from the city would not be directed to other libraries in the county. Princy Harrison, County Administrator for Hancock County, indicated that the County assumed all the central costs of the libraries due to an Inter-local Agreement from the 1990's and that the County will pay the overhead (administrative operational expenses) for the East Hancock County Library in Diamondhead, which are not included in the \$273,000.

Council pointed out that citizens of Diamondhead already pay 2.5 mils for the library each year. Ms. Furr indicated that Mike Hass and Ronnie Artigues are rewriting contract. Regarding the Library Board of Trustee appointments, Ms. Furr indicated that the City will have to decide how many representatives it will want to sit on that board. She indicated that the Board is the main body that makes decisions and policy, sets salaries and determines the budget.

Dick Brown, Diamondhead citizen in attendance, was recognized and asked if the name of the library would change from East Hancock County Library if the City of Diamondhead is funding it. Additionally, Mr. Brown questioned why the City of Diamondhead would fund the library 100% if 50% of the participation was from the County. Ms. Furr could not address the name change question and indicated that Mr. Brown would have to approach the Board of Supervisors regarding support questions.

Marion Brown, Diamondhead citizen in attendance, was recognized and expressed concern that the citizens of Diamondhead were not advised they would have to pick up the funding for a new library

within a start-up city at the time the decision was made to build the East Hancock County Library in Diamondhead.

The Mayor thanked Ms. Furr for coming and indicated that Council's concern is equitability, as residents of Diamondhead already pay 2.53 mils in county taxes for the library, and Council is concerned they will have to pay an additional 3 mils on top of the 2.53 mils.

- b. The Mayor recognized Princy Harrison, Hancock County Administrator who indicated that Lisa Cowand is incensed that the City of Diamondhead is being hit with \$273,000 the City will have to pay for the new library. She indicated that the library will open and it will run, possibly with fewer hours than desired, but that if the City does not put the \$273,000 in its budget for funding the library, it won't mean the City won't get a library.

In anticipation of upcoming budget discussions, Ms. Harrison addressed Council and responded to questions regarding identifying the costs of services, some of which the City will be acquiring from the County including roads, E-911 services, animal shelter, Building & Zoning, the housing of prisoners in the County Jail, accounting and mosquito control. Ms. Harrison indicated that the County will continue to pay for the mosquito control.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Ordinance Setting the Meeting Time of the First Meeting of the Planning and Zoning Commission for the City of Diamondhead, MS. Council discussed the tentatively scheduled organizational meeting of the Planning and Zoning Commission on April 5, 2012.

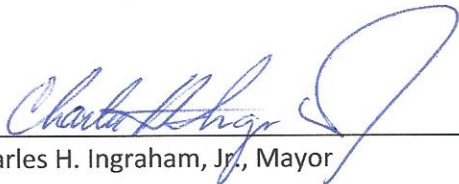
6. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Budget Discussions—Council reviewed a draft budget and made suggestions of adjustments to be forwarded to Chris Watson of Bridge and Watson.

7. Citizens Wishing to Address Council Limit of 3 minutes per person
None

8. ADJOURN

Councilmember Holcomb moved, second by Councilmember Roberson to adjourn at 1pm. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.



Charles H. Ingraham, Jr., Mayor

Sue W. Foster,
Interim City Clerk

Meeting Notice Posted at City Hall on March 22, 2012.